

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties number: BC-4547

Name: LIBERTY HEIGHTS AVE. OVER CSX RAILROAD TRACKS

The bridge referenced herein was inventoried by the Maryland State Highway Administration as part of the Historic Bridge Inventory, and SHA provided the Trust with eligibility determinations in February 2001. The Trust accepted the Historic Bridge Inventory on April 3, 2001. The bridge received the following determination of eligibility.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST	
Eligibility Recommended _____	Eligibility Not Recommended <u>X</u>
Criteria: <u> </u> A <u> </u> B <u>X</u> C <u> </u> D Considerations: <u> </u> A <u> </u> B <u> </u> C <u> </u> D <u> </u> E <u> </u> F <u> </u> G <u> </u> None	
Comments: _____ _____ _____	
Reviewer, OPS: <u>Anne E. Bruder</u>	Date: <u>3 April 2001</u>
Reviewer, NR Program: <u>Peter E. Kurtze</u>	Date: <u>3 April 2001</u>

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Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties
Historic Bridge Inventory
Maryland State Highway Administration
Maryland Historical Trust

MHT Number B-4547

Name and SHA No. BC 2201

Location:

Street/Road Name and Number: Liberty Heights Avenue over CSX Railroad Tracks

City/Town: Baltimore Vicinity

County:

Ownership: State County X Municipal Other

This bridge projects over: Road X Railway Water Land

Is the bridge located within a designated district: yes X no

 NR listed district NR determined eligible district

 locally designated other

Name of District

Bridge Type:

 Timber Bridge
 Beam Bridge Truss-Covered Trestle
 Timber-and-Concrete

 Stone Arch

 Metal Truss

 Movable Bridge
 Swing Bascule Single Leaf Bascule Multiple Leaf
 Vertical Lift Retractable Pontoon

X Metal Girder
 X Rolled Girder Rolled Girder Concrete Encased
 Plate Girder Plate Girder Concrete Encased

 Metal Suspension

 Metal Arch

☐ Metal Cantilever

☐ Concrete

☐ Concrete Arch ☐ Concrete Slab ☐ Concrete Beam

☐ Rigid Frame

☐ Other Type Name _____

Description:

Describe Setting:

Bridge Number BC 2201 carries Liberty Heights Avenue in a generally northwest-southeast direction over the CSX Railroad tracks in the City of Baltimore, Maryland. The approach to the roadway is gently rising and has four lanes with a wide dividing strip. The area around this bridge is developed and urban residential. The structures in the vicinity of this bridge are generally from the twentieth century.

Describe Superstructure and Substructure:

Bridge Number BC 2201 is a five span structure, measuring 158 feet in total length. The roadway width from curb to curb is 75 feet and the total deck width is 89 feet. There are sidewalks on both sides of the bridge and the width of each is six feet.

The superstructure is composed of a steel rolled I-beam. There are 5 spans in the main bridge unit and no approach. The spans are 34, 22, 38, 22, and 42 feet long. There are 15 stringers in this structure. The stringer spacing averages 6 feet. The floor system is composed of concrete cast-in-place. The joints are made of steel sliding plate. There are 2 rectangular concrete parapets.

The substructure is composed of concrete abutments and wing walls. The piers and columns are also concrete.

The condition of this bridge is currently rated poor condition with heavy section loss and deterioration.

Discuss Major Alterations:

There has been one major alteration to this structure. This occurred in 1958 and involved extensive reconstruction. The steel stringers, footing, substructure and concrete deck slab were all replaced.

History:**When Built:** 1916 and 1958**Why Built:** Increased traffic density necessitated a structure with an increased load capacity.**Who Built:** State Roads Commission**Why Altered:****Was this bridge built as part of an organized bridge building campaign:****Surveyor Analysis:**

This bridge may have NR significance for association with:

☐ A Events ☐ Person☒ C Engineering/Architectural**Was this bridge constructed in response to significant events in Maryland or local history:**

Yes. World War One increased the rate of vehicular traffic throughout Maryland. This military traffic caused great damage to existing bridges, most of which were structurally designed for the new automobile and truck traffic. The Federal-Aid Road Act of July 16, 1916 provided matching funds to help alleviate the problem.

When the bridge was built and/or given a major alteration, did it have a significant impact on the growth and development of the area?

The ability to access the markets and employment potential of Baltimore City would have been seriously limited to locals had this bridge not been built. The steady outward growth of Baltimore City necessitated the steady growth of a sufficient transportation network. The construction of bridge BC2201 would have been a significant part of this development. The neighborhoods of Downtown Baltimore would have all been directly impacted.

Is the bridge located in an area which may be eligible for historic designation and would the bridge add to or detract from historic and visual character of the possible district?

Yes. BC2201 is located in an area with historic significance. This area has had a wide variety of unconnected developments. This area could be considered in the future for eligibility. The loss of this bridge would detract from the historic or visual character of this area.

Is the bridge a significant example of its type?

No. Bridge BC2201 is a common type of metal girder bridge. Metal girder bridges were built prolifically in Maryland from the late nineteenth century to the present day. There is nothing to set this bridge apart from others of its type. There are numerous other examples of this bridge available.

Does the bridge retain integrity of the important elements described in the Context Addendum?

No. Bridge Number BC2201 does not retain important elements of its historical structural integrity. Most of the bridge and its important elements was replaced in 1958.

Should this bridge be given further study before significance analysis is made and Why?

No. This bridge does not retain enough to warrant further study.

Bibliography:

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Spero, P.A.C. & Company, and Louis Berger & Associates

1994 Historic Bridges in Maryland: Historic Bridge Context. Baltimore, Maryland.

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1993 Bridge Inventory. Baltimore, Maryland.

U.S. Department of the Interior

1990 National Register Bulletin Number 15. National Park Service. Washington D.C.

U.S. Department of Transportation

1991 Bridge Inspectors Manual. Federal Highway Administration. Washington D.C.

Surveyor:

Name: Andrew M. Watts **Date:** March 1996

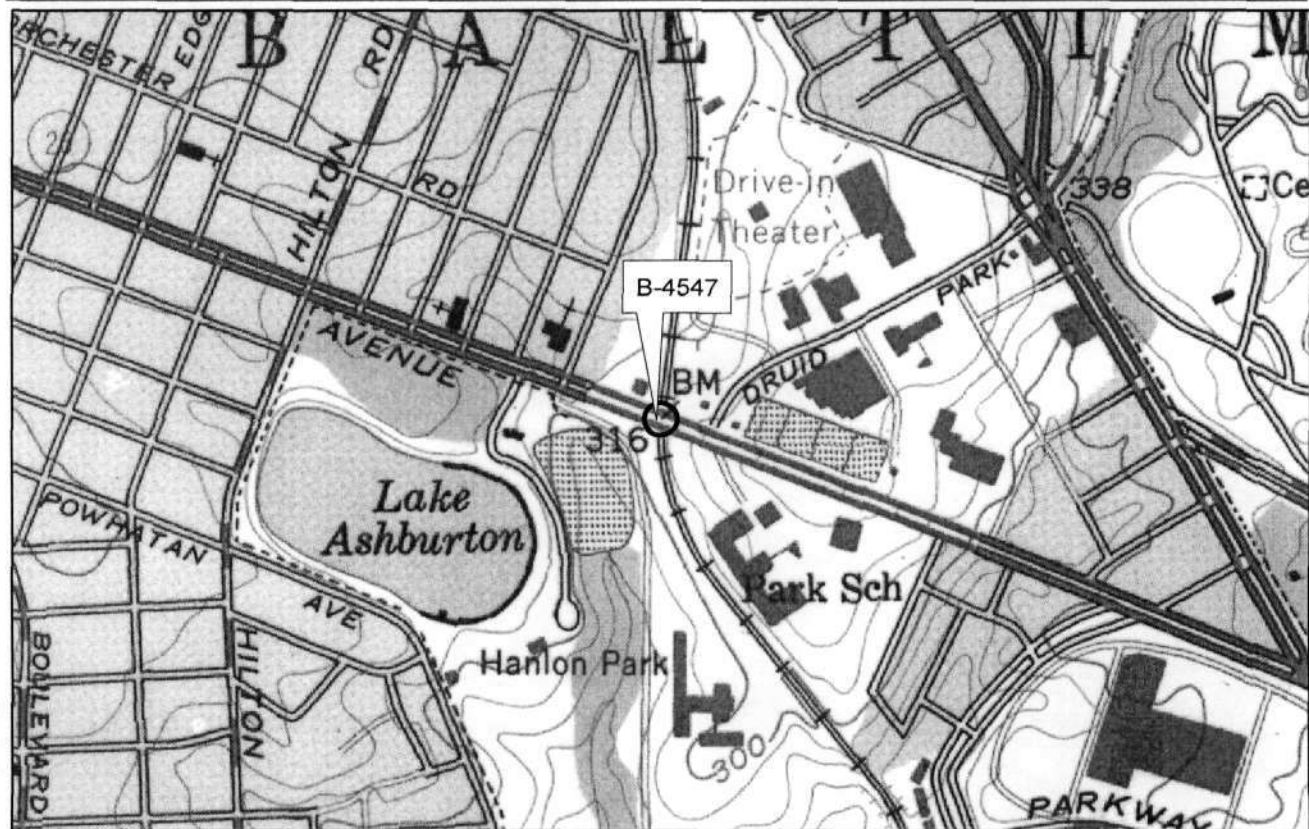
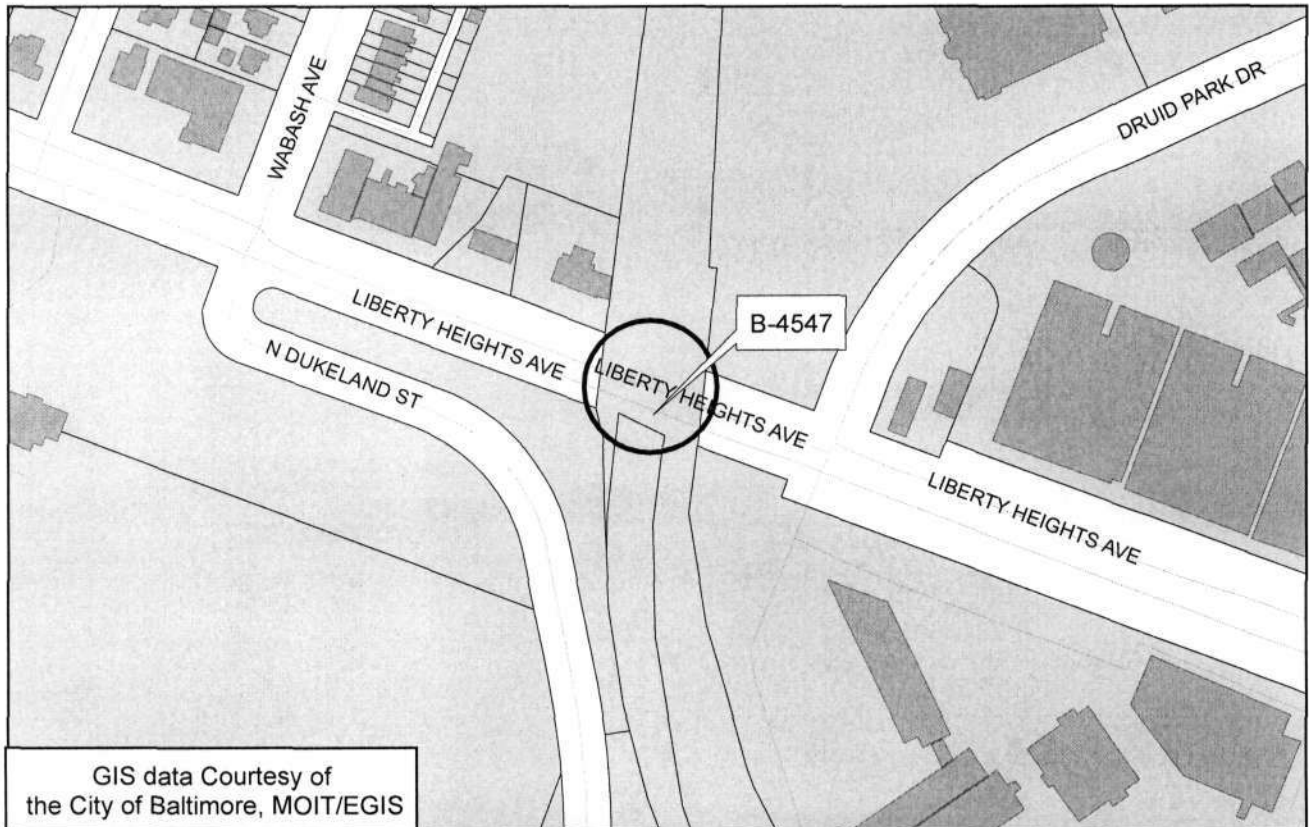
Organization: State Highway Administration **Telephone:** (410) 321-2213

Address: 2323 West Joppa Road, Brooklandville, MD 21022

Maryland Historic Highway Bridges
DR Bridge Type Metal Girder B-4547
Map D-12 Baltimore SW
County Baltimore City
Bridge # and name BC 2201/Liberty
Heights over CSX Railroad



B-4547
Bridge 2201
Liberty Heights Avenue over CSX Railroad Tracks
Baltimore City
Baltimore West Quad





Inventory # B-4547

Name 2201-LIBERTY HEIGHTS AVENUE OVER CSX

County/State BALTIMORE CITY/MARYLAND

Name of Photographer TIM SCHOEN

Date 1/95

Location of Negative SNA

Description WEST APPROACH

Number 20 of 25 1 of 4

PHOTOGRAPHED



Inventory # B-4547

Name 2201- LIBERTY HEIGHTS AVENUE OVER CSX

County/State BALTIMORE CITY/MARYLAND

Name of Photographer TIM SCHDEN

Date 1/95

Location of Negative SHA

Description EAST APPROACH

Number ~~21 of 25~~ 2 of 4



Inventory # B-4547

Name 2201- LIBERTY HEIGHTS AVENUE OVER CSX

County/State BALTIMORE CITY/MARYLAND

Name of Photographer TIM SHOEN

Date 1/95

Location of Negative SHA

Description SOUTH ELEVATION

Number 22 of 25 3 of 4



Inventory # B-4547

Name 2201- LIBERTY HEIGHTS AVENUE OVER CSX

County/State BALTIMORE CITY/MARYLAND

Name of Photographer TIM SCHOEN

Date 1/95

Location of Negative SNA

Description NORTH ELEVATION

Number ~~23~~ of ~~25~~ 4 of 4